

The Alexandria Gazette was 81 years old January 1st.

Gentlemen should have the right to exercise their own taste as to their association—business or social—without interference by legal enactment.

The National Greenback-Labor Party meets in Convention in Washington to-day. Denis Kearney is on hand.

Bishop Gilbert Haven, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, died at the residence of his mother, in Malden, Mass., on Saturday evening last, January 3d.

Trying to tie one's self into respectability will never succeed. It may as well be a temporary purpose or advantage, but sooner or later the expedient will come to grief.

A fire occurred in Baltimore city on Friday night last, by which 3000 bales of cotton and several large warehouses were destroyed. Loss estimated at \$200,000, partly covered by insurance.

The Baltimore Gazette began the new year as a penny paper. Yearly subscription \$3.50. This is a very low price for a first-class paper like the Gazette. It is Democratic, and hits a powerful sight of hard licks. Success to it.

Association between gentlemen is a matter of taste, compatibility of temperament, feelings and sentiment, and no law should be adopted which would compel association between a gentleman and a blackguard, either in business or social relations.

There is not another paper in America sold for the same money that can compare with the Baltimore Daily Gazette. Price \$3.50 a year.

The Baltimorean, weekly, from the same city, is one of America's best weeklies. Truly Baltimore is fortunate in respect to newspapers.

Mr. Parnell, lately conspicuous in Ireland in the recent land rent agitation, arrived in New York last week, and was met by a number of his countrymen, and received with distinguished honor. His welcome to America was very cordial, which the distinguished gentlemen highly appreciated.

QUERY.—The following query has been addressed to us, but we can't answer it:

"If the Readjusters had any credit they could borrow money to buy in the State's obligations, at a figure so depreciated by dishonesty, that the whole thing could be wiped out, principal and all. Have they too much faith in their own dishonesty to buy their own notes?"

"The Pirates of Penzance," Gilbert and Sullivan's new comic opera, is pronounced a more finished and artistic, and even a more humorous work than "Pinafore," and achieved a full success at its representation in New York. It is a satire on the slavish subservience of the police to the tilted, escapades of England in allowing them to commit all sorts of depredations with impunity, for which other better men would be roughly handled, hustled into prison and punished.

ABOUT MAINE.

Nearly every one, who reads and feels an interest in the political events occurring almost daily and hourly, felt that it was a foregone conclusion when Gov. Garcelon consented to submit certain points of the Maine election, middle to the Supreme Court of that State, that the result would be a repudiation of the disgraceful 8 to 7 electoral commission, which counted Hayes in as President in 1876. That result has been accomplished in Maine. The Court by its decision, if it is allowed to stand as law, upsets the endeavor of the Governor and Council to restore honest elections to that State. The decision which has been rendered was surely not unexpected by any reasoning Democrat, for it is a fixed principle of Courts composed of Republican Judges, in these latter days, never to rule against the Republican party. At least the decision was not unusual. Look back over the judicial expressions ever since the war and it will be found that the Courts have had to decide with the party in power, wherever the Republican party has held sway, or else a way would be found to subvert the Court, by placing partisan members upon the bench who would find law to support even the grossest wrongs of that party. Indeed, we may ask, what has the Republican party not corrupted? What has escaped the touch of this great political Upas?

What will be the result in Maine we cannot at this writing say. We believe Gov. Garcelon and Council will stand firm, and do their duty as they honestly see it. But the situation is complicated and a culmination will be reached probably by the time this paper gets to our readers.

The General Assembly met again on Tuesday. We have hope that we may soon hear of some practical legislation—nothing having been accomplished in that line previous to the holiday recess. Of course the election of County Judges will go on, but as that is a special joint order of course but a couple of hours of each day will be devoted to that work. If as unsuccessful in that regard as in some of the elections of Judges made before the recess it will be a bad mess. But we hope for the best, being incited thereto by the fact that members have had an opportunity to consult with their constituents, and may thus be enabled to rise above partisan malignity and elect only such as will reflect credit upon the Virginia judiciary. As to this we shall see.

It has been said to us that the readjusters will accomplish wonders during this session in settling the State debt trouble. We hope so. A settlement is what we want. Let us have it in some shape, satisfactory to all parties, and the sooner the better. If we get one, which will not cause every true Virginian to blush in shame, from the present General Assembly, we shall be disappointed, and yet glad of it.

"Boastful New England."

The New York Herald seems to be somewhat disgruntled by the tone and spirit of the speeches made on the night of the twenty-fourth annual meeting of the New England Mutual Admiration Society. It says that any one who should get his knowledge of American history from these speeches would have the impression that "the Massachusetts Puritans were the source of all that is valuable in our institutions, and that the greatness of our country is wholly due to them." Why not, since the people of the country who have made its history quietly sit down and permit the sons of New England to write it for them? The "customary exaggerations" with which the Herald finds fault are quite natural under such circumstances. The Puritans are not to be disparaged. They were, as the Herald says, "a sturdy, morally heroic, God-fearing, but morose and narrow-minded people, who never flinched." They did their duty according to the light given them, and left lightly gasconading and other worldly vanities to their descendants.

But it is still not true that New England did the most towards shaping our institutions and history. New England claims but one name among the highest in our annals—Franklin—and he was anything but a Puritan, and escaped from Boston very early in his youth. The greatest name that our country furnishes is that of Washington, a Virginian. The Declaration of Independence was Jefferson's work. It was Hamilton and Madison who framed the Constitution. Marshall was the greatest of our jurists, and Henry and Clay the foremost of orators. "Descending to later periods," says the Herald, "we find that the great names and the great things have not been of New England paternity. New England opposed the second war with Great Britain, which brought a harvest of national renown opposed the war with Mexico, which enlarged our national area. Neither General Scott nor General Taylor, the heroes of the Mexican war, any more than General Jackson, the hero of the second war with England, were New Englanders. The New Englanders have been great schoolmasters, but not great men of affairs. The most illustrious names of our civil war tell the same story. President Lincoln was neither a Yankee nor a Puritan. The great generals of the recent war were not furnished by New England. If the Herald writers will but read Schaff's History of Maryland, they will find many more curious revelations of the "true inwardness" of the system reported to by "boastful New England" in blowing her own trumpet.—Baltimore Sun.

Meeting of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Stockholders.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of this company took place at Richmond Tuesday, Mr. Robt. W. Burke, of Staunton, presiding. The earnings of the road for the year were shown to be \$1,891,542.2 and the operating expenses \$1,507,832.07 leaving \$383,709.68 clear earnings. Owing to the low water in the Ohio and low rates on western produce the gross earnings were \$44,618 less than the year previous, but the operating expenses were \$87,408 less than the year before, which made an increase in the net revenue of \$43,588. More than 80 per cent of the track is now steel rail, and five new engines and 100 cars have been added to the equipment. The company has called for payment of its 8 per cent bonds due Jan. 1st, 1880. The Board of Directors, including Gen. John Echols, rejected.—Staunton Vindicator.

Consumption Cured.—An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure for Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, he felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellow-men. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who desire it, this remedy in German, French, or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. W. SHEPARD, 149 Powers-Bldg., Rochester, N. Y.

George, the Count Joannes, otherwise George Jones, actor and author, and a very eccentric and well-known character, died Tuesday Dec. 30th, in a little room in an obscure hotel in New York, of kidney complaint. The only person by his side was Miss Avonia Fairbanks, with him on the stage. He was 69 years of age. His funeral took place from the Church of the Transfiguration, better known as the "Little Church Around the Corner," January 1st.

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For the Commonwealth.
A Letter from Supt. Hawes.

Mr. Editor:—As the Spirit of the Valley feels under no obligations to publish my articles in reference to text-books, &c., will you permit me to reply to some statements of that paper last week? He says I called the people of Rockingham "stupid and ignorant." This I deny. In his office I said this: "If the people of the county cannot understand my statements in reference to text-books, &c., made and published in all the papers of Harrisonburg in August last, then indeed was Gov. McDowell right when he said that the greatest drawback to Virginia was the infernal ignorance of her people." I say this yet, and without the slightest reflection upon the intelligence of the people of either the county or State. All I ask, and have asked, is that they have the facts on the subject of text-books, insinuations, &c., clearly set before them, and be allowed to judge for themselves as to the right or wrong of everything done.

I will admit that there would seem to be some ignorance in the county when the editor of that paper declared publicly that our old series of text-books were Virginia books, and that the newly-adopted series were Northern, when just the reverse is true. One would suppose that everybody who thought himself competent to criticize text-books, knew that Prof. Venable, Commodore Maury and Capt. McDonnell were Virginians, and that Prof. Davie, Harvey and Guyot were not Virginians, but such was not the fact. And now he says he was "misinformed." Pray, where do you get your information? Certainly not from any one in this county, for surely there is no one else that ignorant. But if there is, you should not blame me for quoting Gov. McDowell in reference to Virginians, for I have always regarded Rockingham as the most intelligent part of Virginia. If I have been mistaken in this, why—it was ignorance on my part.

The Spirit of the Valley seems to think, too, that I am trying to explain this matter away so as to keep my place as Supt. of Schools. Nothing, not even his statement about Virginia books, is farther from the fact. I am no mendicant to beg a place at the hands of anybody, much less to sacrifice principles to retain place. Besides, my present term of office does not expire till July 1st, 1883. If I cannot stand on my official acts, then let me step down and out, but let me be judged by men who know more of Virginia and of Virginians than does our text-book citizen.

Again, we do not recognize the right of two or three men, be they carpet-baggers or not, to set themselves up as the exponents of Rockingham and arrogate to themselves the right to dictate to and bulldoze everybody who does not act in their way.

When the people speak it is not through a few letters written by one or two men, and purporting to come from those names are withheld when demanded by those who are attacked and have a right to know them.

The Spirit of the Valley suggests, too, that the Legislature cut my salary, and of course all other Superintendents down to \$50 or \$100 per annum, because forsooth "some poor laboring man" gets no more.

The average number of days I have been officially employed each year since my appointment is 224, and they have averaged full days. My predecessor, Rev. Mr. Loose, reported 285 days occupied during his last year. The Henkel Bill gives much additional work this year. The Spirit of the Valley would give us but 22 or 44 cents per day, including all expenses of self, horse and office.

By parity of reasoning, I suppose he would cut down teachers' pay to about half that amount, as their term or time employed is less than half of mine, and because "some poor laboring man" don't get that much, "and works from sunrise to sunset." I know some poor ladies, and they are ladies in every sense of the word, who work from before sunrise till after sunset for one dollar per week, and yet no sensible man would say for that reason that a competent lady teacher should receive only that amount. Such doctrine is the very text of Communism, and can find no lodgment with the people of Rockingham.

My pay, including all expenses, is about \$250 per day, which is less than our Supervisors receive, and, in my opinion, less than any assessor or deputy collector gets for work not less onerous and difficult; and they don't receive too much when we consider the character and responsibility of their work.

The Legislature may reduce the pay of Superintendents, but whenever they do, a part of the work of these officers will stop. I for one am unwilling to work as I have for the last four years for less than I now receive, and will not do it. I get less per month than I did at any time from 1870 to 1875 teaching in Harrisonburg. The question then for the Legislature is whether or not the work of the Superintendent can be dispensed with without detriment to the school interest. People are not patriotic enough these days to work for the public for nothing, at least I have not found many such outside of a few school trustees; and my humble judgment is that it would be true economy to pay these officers for the work required of them. Close and critical supervision should be exercised over every interest of the schools, and in the better and more careful management of the vast sums expended on the schools every year, much might be saved by paying trustees for extra time and attention to them.

Respectfully, J. H. HAWES.
Harrisonburg, Va., Jan. 5, 1880.

GUILTY OF WRONG.—Some people have a fashion of confusing excellent remedies with the large mass of "patent medicines," and in this they are guilty of a wrong. There are some advertised remedies fully worth all that is asked for them, and one at least we know of—Hop Bitters. The writer has had occasion to use the Bitters in just such a climate as we have most of the year in Bay City, and has always found them to be first class and reliable, doing all that is claimed for them.—Tribune.

REFUDIATION—A DEVELOPMENT.

No. 5.

The whole question of the relation of the public schools to the revenues of the State, needs a thorough sifting. Let it be presumed in the first place, that the debt of the State, contracted before the war, the payment of which is guaranteed by the Constitution of the State, is prior in point of time, and more sacred by its long standing, than any other obligation which the State has or can assume. It has never been contended by the repudiationists that this debt is unjust, or that old Virginia did not get a *quid pro quo* in the contracting of it. These points being granted, we assume the broad ground that the Legislature has no power to make, and cannot by any possibility make, any obligation more binding on itself than its debt, yet it is contended that the obligation to support the free schools is more sacred than the obligation to pay the just claims of the creditors of the State. That is, if we assume that all the voters of the State are tax-payers and property-owners, the obligation to put aside \$500,000 of their net earnings every year for the education of their own children, is confessed to be a more binding one than to provide for the payment of that debt.

Now let us apply this reasoning to individual finances:

Suppose a countryman owes his grocer \$75 for sugar and coffee, and the sixty days of credit has expired; and that the grocer asks payment. The countryman says: "Well, really friend, I would like to pay you. I got the sugar and coffee, and myself, wife and children have consumed it; but you see, my friend, we have eight children now large enough to be at school. It costs us one dollar a month for each at the neighboring school. This aggregates \$80 a year. This would pay you; but you see these children are to be voters, and will form a part of the body politic. It is absolutely necessary for the safety of the republic, that they should be educated; so excuse me for non-payment of the bill for sugar and coffee—I must educate my children. Besides, Mr. Grocer, I have but about \$2,500 worth of property in all, and you cannot sue this bill out of me. My person is safe from imprisonment. I am a Sovereign, you can't help yourself. But if you choose to take 17 cents in the dollar, I think I can pay that; educate the children and keep Polly in calico dresses."

If the grocer were a Godly man, perhaps he would bite his lips and say nothing. If he had religion in a mild form, he would curse a little to himself in a quiet and becoming way; but if he were an outbreathing sinner, and had not the fear of God or man before his eyes, he would most likely say to the countryman: "You are a scoundrel, you are a knave. D—n you and Polly, and your eight children, and the whole pack of you. I did not sell you goods on condition that you would first provide all necessary comforts for your family, and then pay me out of what is left. You are a swindler—you will get no more of my coffee and sugar."

Is it any better for a State to do such a deed or for individuals acting in a corporate capacity to do such a thing, than it would be for an individual to do it? And yet, this is the miserable logic of every repudiationist who is able to pay tax, and who does help support the free schools, and has children to educate.

But take the other class, who pay little or no tax, except the poll tax, and who claim at the hands of the State the education of their children as a gratuity.

I have a case in my eye: My neighbor, Tom Jones, has a wife and thirteen children. Seven of Tom's offspring are of an age to be in the public schools. Tom has been over thirty in business. He owns a small house and furniture, valued, all told, at \$500. Tom pays on this realty into the Treasury of the State, annually \$4.50. The State provides a good school for seven of Tom's children. Now, in ante-bellum times, in these good old days of the Commonwealth, antecedent to the coming of the Underwood and Lewis Conventions, Tom would have paid at any tolerable village or country school for these seven children, at the very lowest, one dollar a month for each, or \$70 a year for all.

Now let us show how the account stands between Tom Jones and the State of Virginia:

THOMAS JONES, ESQ.,
To Commonwealth of Virginia, Dr.
1880.

Jan. 1. To 10 months tuition for 7 children, 1 boy and 6 girls..... \$70 00
Credit.

By Taxes collected of said Thomas..... \$4 50
Bal. due by Thomas to the Commonwealth..... \$65 50

Who pays the balance of \$65.50 for the education of Tom Jones' children? Well, here is one case. James Gray is next-door neighbor to Thomas.

James Gray began life as a few boy, selling papers for one cent a piece profit, but James was industrious, economical and thrifty. James Gray now pays taxes on \$85,000. A part of this property in land, some in houses and some bonds.

James did not marry very young—Moreover, he did not have in his family as fruitful a vine as Tom Jones. Jas. Gray has but three children, a son and two daughters. Besides, James does not patronize the public schools. He sends his son to College and his daughters to a first-class Seminary. They cost him at these schools \$1500 a year. This all comes out of the pocket of James Gray. But Tom Jones says:—

"Why does not James Gray send his children to the public school? He has the same privilege that I have. It is his own fault if he does not."

So it is. That is so, Tom. In that you are right. But then, Tom, if Gray does not patronize the public schools, what is that to you or me? Surely it is not injury to us. It only leaves the teacher more time to give to your children and mine, and in the present condition of the State finances, it is, perhaps, not desirable for everybody to send to the free schools; we have neither houses nor teachers ready for the reception of all.

But, Tom Jones, suppose Jas. Gray did send his three children to the public schools, how then? Well, let us see the account of the State of Virginia with James Gray:

THE STATE OF VIRGINIA,
In account with James Gray, Dr.
1880.

Jan. 1. To 10 months tuition for 3 children..... \$30 00
Credit.

By Taxes on \$85,000 of capital..... \$425 00
Bal. indebtedness by the State to Jas. Gray..... \$395 00

Now it happens that James Gray is a debt-payer. He says: "I am willing that the State give \$100 of my taxes to educate the children of Tom Jones and Nicholas Swartz; that \$95 of it go to support the State Government, for Tom Jones thirteen children need an efficient police as well as mine, and we must be protected in our persons and property; but I want the other \$100 to go as interest on a certain debt the State owes, for a good part of that debt was created in bringing the railroad to my door, and in supplying me with the daily paper, with which I first made my start. Besides, when I first got to merchandise, I used to buy eggs at three cents a dozen, and often turned out a basket of them which rotted on my hands. Now they bring twenty-three cents a dozen, all because of a railroad, a daily paper and good turnpikes. I think the debt ought to be paid, and we are able to do it and support the free schools, too."

Tom Jones:—"No, you old scoundrel. Jim Gray, you are a bondholder. You sit in the shade and collect your interest, while we shovel gravel and dig in the ground for our living. No sir, Jim Gray, you can't come it over me that way. You want to break up our free schools, you old skindiv, you blasted bondholder. You want to fasten \$32,000,000 on us and our children for three generations to come. No, sir, you are the man that fastened on us that odious provision of law making the exercise of the franchise dependent upon the payment of our poll tax. We are going to get Mr. Paul to have it repealed. Then we are going to vote whether we pay taxes or not; and we are going to have free schools; and we are going to have thirteen or twenty-two children, just as we like, you old cuss of a bondholder."

X.

New Advertisements.

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J. A. LEWENBACH & SON,
Wholesale and Retail Dealers in the above line of goods.

To Country Merchants
Goods from their stock
AT LESS THAN BALTIMORE PRICES,
Having bought before the advance in prices.

Boots! Shoes! Hats!

Large Stock! Low Prices!

THE BOOT, SHOE AND HAT STORE, in Swiss Building, full of choice goods, at prices which defy competition. TRY ME!

A. H. HELLER.
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GIVING a full resume of the preceding week, of all national topics and general intelligence, best for being the only Representative Southern Paper there supporting the National Democratic Party. Edited by GEO. C. UNDERBURN, of Virginia. Formerly publisher of the Richmond (Va.) "Inquirer."

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Box 222, Washington, D. C., or the Editor.
Jan. 8.

Commissioner's Sale

By virtue of a decree of the Circuit Court of the County of Rockingham, Va., rendered at the Fall Term, 1879, in the Chancery cause of Elizabeth S. Conrad vs. Jonathan and Joel Shinker, I, as Commissioner appointed for that purpose, will proceed to sell, at the south front of the Court-house, in Harrisonburg, Va., at 12 o'clock M.,

ON THURSDAY, THE 6TH OF FEBRUARY, 1880, the real estate in the bill and proceedings mentioned so much thereof as may be necessary, known as:

PETER SHAVER MILL PROPERTY,
situated on Linville's Creek in said county, containing 7 ACRES, 25 POLDS and also the water privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging.

A desirable property and can be purchased at a fair price.

TERMS.—\$500 cash on the day of sale and the residue of said purchase money in two equal annual payments, with interest from date of sale, the purchaser giving a bond with approved personal security for the deferred payments, and the title retained as further security.

J. S. HARRISBERGER, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER'S SALE
—OF A—
VALUABLE FARM!

By virtue of a decree of the Circuit Court of the County of Rockingham, Va., rendered at the Fall Term, 1879, in the Chancery cause of Cornelius Armstrong, Ac., vs. Henry Kyger, Ac., I, as Commissioner appointed for that purpose, will proceed to sell, at the south front of the Court-house, in Harrisonburg, Va., at 12 o'clock M.,

ON THURSDAY, THE 6TH OF FEBRUARY, 1880, the real estate in the bill and proceedings mentioned so much thereof as may be necessary, known as:

CHRISTIAN KYGER PROPERTY,
situated about 9 miles South-East of Harrisonburg, on the Laver road.

This farm is one of the best in Rockingham county, or either of the adjoining counties; it is well watered, having on it several never-failing springs from which all the fields on the place are supplied with water. There is an abundance of fruit on the farm of the most improved varieties. The improvements consist of a LANE, well arranged BRICK HOUSE, containing 8 rooms with cellar, and all necessary outbuildings. It is seldom that so valuable property is thrown on the market, and we ask the special attention of persons desiring to purchase a first-class farm, with all the necessary comforts and conveniences of a home, to this property. The farm contains 100 acres by recent survey.

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CASSIMERES AND SATINETS AT REDUCED PRICES,

CALICOES AND ALL DOMESTIC GOODS AT OLD PRICES.

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—WITH—
Mammoth Stock of Groceries, Coal Oil, Wooden-Ware, Leather, Boots, Shoes, &c.

The Largest and Best Stock of Groceries in Town,

AT THE LOWEST PRICES,
EITHER WHOLESALE OR RETAIL.

Just received, a car-load each of Standard and C. West & Sons' Coal Oil. At the same price, letting our customers take their choice; 500 sacks of Salt on route.

GEORGE A. MYERS & CO.,
No. 5 EAST MARKET STREET.

Buy for Cash Flour, Wheat, Corn, Oats, Butter, Eggs, Bacon, Poultry, &c., &c.

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Dry Goods and Notions, Cloaks, and All Kinds of Winter Goods, at

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The Largest and the Finest Stock in the Valley, at

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Dress Goods for 12 1-2 Cents, suitable for these Hard Times, at

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WE SELL GOODS THAT WILL GIVE SATISFACTION EVERY TIME. CALL AT LOEB'S AND FIND OUT PRICES BEFORE YOU PURCHASE.

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HARRISONBURG, VA.

Fishing Tackle a Specialty.

VIRGINIA, TO WIT—IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE of the Circuit Court of Rockingham County, on the 18th day of December, A. D. 1879.

Plaintiff, Erasmus Fletcher, vs. Defendants, J. F. Pittsman and Henry Whitledge, late partners in business under the firm name of Pittsman & Whitledge, now Defendants.

